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**SACRAMENTO WOMAN SENTENCED TO TWENTY-TWO  
MONTHS IN PRISON IN EMBEZZLEMENT SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that SHEREEN SHABNAM BUKSH, 26, of Sacramento, California, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge William B. Shubb in Sacramento to twenty-two months in prison in connection with an embezzlement scheme in which she participated. BUKSH pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud and one count of money laundering on April 2, 2003. As part of her sentence, BUKSH was ordered to pay \$426,311 in restitution to USCS International ("USCS"), the victim of her scheme. Parole has been abolished in the federal criminal system, and BUKSH will be required by law to serve at least 85% of the prison time imposed.

As part of her guilty plea, BUKSH admitted that during the period of November of 1999 through the end of March of 2000, she was employed in the accounts payable department in Rancho Cordova of USCS, a large third-party producer, and mailer of monthly bills and financial statements. As part of her job responsibilities, BUKSH was responsible for inputting invoice information, and mailing out payments to USCS vendors. BUKSH also had the authority in her position to create and delete vendors. As part of a scheme to defraud USCS, BUKSH created several fictitious vendors on the USCS computer accounting system, and caused USCS to issue

checks which were mailed to these fictitious vendors. Co-defendants NADIM REHMAN and SANDEEP WADHWA's role in the scheme was to set up mailboxes and bank accounts in the names of some of these fictitious entities, which were used to receive and deposit the checks which BUKSH caused her employer to mail. In total, BUKSH admitted that she caused USCS to issue and mail out approximately \$411,716 in fraudulent payments to fictitious vendors under her control. Co-defendant REHMAN was sentenced on July 2, 2003, and defendant WADHWA is set to be sentenced before Judge Shubb on January 28, 2004.

The case was being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles and was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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